

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HONG K 04981 060556Z

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ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 PA-02 PRS-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /023 W

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P 060242Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0616

UNCLAS HONG KONG 4981

USIAC

FOR IEA, IOR/M, STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CHINA FOOD PRICES

1. FOLLOWING FULL TEXT ENGLISH SUNDAY POST-HERALD MAY 5  
EDITORIAL ENTITLED "FRANKLY SPEAKING:" QUOTE

2. WOULD THE LEFT-WING UNION CRITICS OF OUR LATEST INFLATION  
AGONIES IN HONGKONG HAVE THE DECENCY TO ADMIT THAT NOT AN  
INCONSIDERABLE PROPORTION OF THE BLAME RESTS WITH THE PEOPLE  
WHO FIX THE PRICES FOR OUR FOOD IMPORTS FROM CHINA?

3. AND WHILE NO ONE BEGRUDGES THEM THE RIGHT TO LET OFF STEAM  
ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION IN HONGKONG, THIS SHOULD NOT  
BECOME A SMOKESCREEN TO OBSCURE THE EFFECTS OF HIGH CHINESE  
PRICES ON THE LOCAL HOUSEWIFE'S BUDGET.

4. IT MIGHT BE SUGGESTED FURTHER MORE THAT A WELL-PLACED  
DEPUTATION TO CANTON OR PEKING, ARMED WITH THE SAME FREEDOM  
OF SPEECH ALLOWED IN HONGKONG, MIGHT GET BETTER RESULTS THAN  
A GROUP OF STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING IN VICTORIA PARK.

5. LET THERE BE NO HUMBUG OR HYPOCRISY ABOUT THIS. NO ONE  
DENIES PROFITEERING BY HONGKONG SHOPKEEPERS, BUT WHEN THE  
LARGEST SINGLE SOURCE OF OUR FOOD IS CHINA, ATTEMPTS TO  
BEAT INFLATION MUST BE DIRECTED THERE FIRST. UNQUOTE

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## Message Attributes

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